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PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATISTICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

Fifth Ordinary Meeting, March 18, 1844.

THOMAS TOOKE, Esq., V. P., in the Chair.

The following gentlemen were elected :—

T. Milner Gibson, Esq., M.P.
John Meeson Parsons, Esq.Thomas Trevethan Spicer, Esq.
Charles Creag, Esq.

The following gentlemen were proposed as candidates for admission into the Society :—

Frederick R. Manson, M.D.

James Reid, M.D.

Frederick Pigou, Esq.

The following letter from Major Graham was read :—

SIR,

General Register Office, March 12, 1844.

I HAVE the honour of informing you that I have received His Royal Highness Prince Albert's commands to transmit to you the accompanying "Tableau Général des Décès du Canton de Genève pendant l'année 1842," composed by M. Marc d'Espine; and in forwarding it to the Statistical Society of London I am honoured with Her Majesty's commands to express Her Majesty's gracious wish that it may be deposited with other documents of a similar nature in the library of that Society.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your faithful servant,

(Signed)

GEORGE GRAHAM.

*Registrar-General.**To Joseph Fletcher, Esq.*

A paper was read by Joseph Fletcher, Esq. entitled, "The Metropolis, its boundaries, extent, and divisions for Local Government, with especial reference to its means of sewerage," being a continuation of the paper read at the last meeting.—See p. 103.

Sixth Ordinary Meeting, April 15, 1844.

The following gentlemen were elected :—

Frederick R. Manson, M.D.

James Reid, M.D.

Frederick Pigou, Esq.

Thomas Drane, Esq., was proposed as a candidate for admission into the Society.

The papers read were :—

1. "Observations on the late Report of the Census Commissioners for Ireland," by Henry Hallam, Esq., F.R.S.—See p. 178.
2. "An Examination of the Returns made by the various Railway Companies of the United Kingdom with respect to their traffic during the year ending 30th of June, 1843," by G. R. Porter, Esq., F.R.S., Treasurer.—See p. 170.

Seventh Ordinary Meeting, May 20, 1844.

The following gentlemen were formally admitted Fellows of the Society :—

Frederick R. Manson, M.D.

James Reid, M.D.

Thomas Trevethan Spicer, Esq.

*

Thomas Drane, Esq., was elected a Fellow of this Society.

The following gentlemen were proposed as candidates for admission into the Society:—

Thomas Hodgkin, M.D.

William Humphry Freeland, Esq.

Alfred Rhodes Bristow, Esq.

A paper by Dr. Guy was read, entitled:—"A Third Contribution towards a Knowledge of the Influence of Employments on Health."

BILLS OF MORTALITY.

THE district of Wandsworth was added to the metropolis at the beginning of the year 1844; and the return for the present quarter is derived from 115 districts, divided into 576 Registrars' districts. Thirty-four of the districts are included in the metropolis; and the remaining eighty-one districts comprise, with some agricultural parishes, the principal towns and cities of England. The population was 6,578,912 in 1841.

TABLE I.—46,041 deaths were registered in the winter quarter of 1844; namely, 13,471 in the metropolis, and 32,570 in the other eighty-one districts; the average of the corresponding quarters of 1838-42 having been 13,266 for the metropolis, 32,085 for the other districts, 45,351 for the metropolis and the other districts together. The deaths were, therefore, 690 above the average of those five winters. 400 of the excess being subtracted for the additional day in leap year, 290 are left.

But the population has been found at all the censuses to be increasing rapidly in the town districts, partly by the excess of births over deaths, and partly by immigration. The population of the fifty-nine most populous districts in the return increased at the rate of 6·3 per cent. every four years, from 1831 to 1841; and it is, therefore, probable that the population did not increase less than 5 per cent. in the four years from the winter quarter of 1840 to the winter quarter of 1844. The average with which the 46,041 (—400) deaths in the quarter ending March 31st, 1844, should consequently be compared, is 47,619.

TABLE III.—The *Metropolis* has been less healthy than in previous years; but the mortality is not so much above the average as in the Autumn quarter of 1843. The average employed in the Table was derived from the returns of the five years, 1839-43. It will be observed that 252 persons died of *Small-pox*, which was fatal to only 114 persons in the preceding Autumn quarter. The great majority of these persons were children, and had not been vaccinated. *Measles* and *Scarlatina* were declining, yet 334 persons died of the former, 536 of the latter disease. *Influenza*, *bronchitis*, and *pneumonia* destroyed more than the average number of lives in the metropolis; and their fatality, particularly among the aged, is mentioned in many of the reports from the other districts. The deaths registered from dropsy, cancer, *scrofula*, heart disease, apoplexy, paralysis, *tabes mesenterica*, were above the average in number; those from childbirth, as well as violent and sudden deaths, were below the average. *Two* deaths happened from hydrophobia.

The quarterly meteorological table has been compiled from the valuable weekly tables supplied by the *Astronomer Royal*. Upon comparing the results with those obtained from the observations of Mr. Henry, it will be seen that the mean temperature of the air has been a little below that of the season.

Districts in which the mortality was *higher* than the average mortality of *Winter* in the same districts:—Brighton, Winchester, Windsor, St. Albans, Wycombe, Northampton, Bedford, Cambridge, Yarmouth, Dorchester, Exeter, Plymouth, Kidderminster, *Birmingham*, *Aston*, Coventry, *Lincoln*, Wigan, *Abergavenny*, *Merthyr-Tydfil*, Anglesey.

Districts in which the mortality was *lower* than the average mortality of *Winter* in the same districts:—The central districts of the metropolis, Cheltenham, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Stockport, Macclesfield, Preston, Bolton, Prescott, *Manchester*, Salford, Sheffield, Leeds, Sunderland, Gateshead, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Cockermouth, Pontypool.